



### Gov. McCrory Appoints Nick Tennyson Secretary of Transportation



In early August, Governor Pat McCrory announced the appointment of Nick Tennyson as the new Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Transportation. Tennyson previously served as Chief Deputy Secretary since March 2013, and succeeds Tony Tata.

Nick Tennyson is sworn in as Secretary of Transportation.

"Nick Tennyson is the perfect choice to continue the momentum we have made in North Carolina's transportation strategy," said Governor McCrory. "He has been involved in planning all of our key transportation strategies over the last two and half years, and is equipped to hit the ground running to continue our progress."

Secretary Tennyson and the NCDOT team will continue to focus on expanding and safely maintaining our transportation network through the Governor's 25 Year Vision, support new funding strategies including the bonds to Connect NC, strengthen our ports to make our state more globally competitive and deliver other infrastructure projects to help grow the state's economy and create jobs. [Learn More](#)

### Nash County U.S. 301 Closure Update

This June, NCDOT closed a 1.2 mile-long section of U.S. 301 in Nash County between N.C. 4 in Battleboro and N.C. 33 in Whitakers. Crews with Palmetto Infrastructure Inc. of Greenville, S.C. are making safety improvements along this heavily-traveled road including replacing the bridges over Swift Creek and the Swift Creek overflow, widening U.S. 301 and extending two drainage culverts under the road. The project is on schedule to be complete in December.

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On this week's NCDOT Now, NCDOT partners with the N.C. Department of Agriculture on creating pollinator habitats in wildflower beds, tickets available now for special train stops at the North Carolina State Fair and the Lexington Barbecue Festival in October, and ferry crews help rescue a father and son in Swan Quarter Bay.

[Watch this week's NCDOT Now.](#)

The bridges being replaced in this \$5.1 million project were constructed in 1920, built to outdated design standards and need to be replaced to handle current and future traffic demands. This section of U.S. 301 is also narrow and does not meet modern width standards, resulting in a high rate of crashes.

By closing the entire road and doing all of the work at once, crews will be able to finish the work in a shorter amount of time than if the road had remained open and work was performed with lane closures.

A signed detour along N.C. 33, N.C. 4/48 and N.C. 4 is in place for through traffic. Some truck traffic is also being directed onto Gaskill Farm Road and Johnston Road. Local traffic is able to access the area, but not able to cross sites where work is taking place. Local traffic is encouraged to use the signed alternate route to avoid delays on other roads.

Most of the widening of U.S. 301 is complete and a culvert has been widened. Crews are currently replacing the first bridge. Once this is complete, crews will then begin work on the last two bridges simultaneously.

### **Board Member Spotlight: Gus Tulloss**

Gus Tulloss is owner of Gus H. Tulloss Insurance Agency, located in Rocky Mount. He has been a licensed insurance agent since 1989 and is a member of the local, state and national Association of Life Underwriters, as well as a Life Underwriters Training Council Fellow.



Gus H. Tulloss

Tulloss graduated from East Carolina University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. He is past president of the North Carolina Jaycees and the Rocky Mount Rotary Club.

Tulloss is currently chairman of the Deleon Cater Foundation and past chairman of the Salvation Army Advisory Board. He is past president of the Rocky Mount Chamber of Commerce and a former member of the University of North Carolina Board of Governors. Tulloss has received the East Carolina University Alumni of the Year award and the Rocky Mount Distinguished Citizen award.

"It is truly an honor to sit on the N.C. Board of Transportation and represent the needs of the citizens who live and work in the counties making up Division Four," said Tulloss. "I want to thank Division Engineer Tim Little and his staff for their continued dedication to improving the region's connections to commerce, jobs and military centers. Thanks to them, we have been able to make the future bright for the next generation of North Carolinians who will call this area of the state 'home.'"

## What is a Gator Getter?



Have you ever driven down the road and noticed trash along the route? It could be big pieces of tires, trash bags or even debris from accidents located in the median or in the lanes. All that can be very dangerous for N.C. Department of Transportation maintenance crews to pick up. That's where the Gator Getter comes in.

Across the state, NCDOT crews are starting to use this tool along interstates and highways for maintenance programs.

[Learn More](#)

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